





# G O D S

## Justice against Murther,

O R

The Bloudy Apprentice Executed.

Being an Exact and true Relation of a Bloudy Murther committed by one *Thomas Savage* an Apprentice to a Vintner at the Ship Tavern in Ratliffe upon the Maid of the House his fellow Servant, being deluded therunto by the instigations of a Whore. How and in what sort he performed the same, how he Robbed his Master, and was persued and taken by Hue and Cry at Coome Farm betwixt Greenwich and Woolwich. Sent to Newgate, afterwards Arraigned and Cast at Justice Hall in the Old Bayly, condemned to be hanged over against the place where he committed the fact, and being once hanged and cut down afterwards reviving again, was the second time hanged till he was dead, on Wednesday October 28. 1668.

Exod. 21. v. 12.

He that smiteth a man so that he dye shall surely be put to death.

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## Gods Justice against Murther.

**O**F all crimes committed by mortals here on earth, there is none which cries to heaven for louder vengeance then that sin of wilful Murther, when men play the Beasts and inhumanly gore each other to death, making the world a shambles for humane slaughters, by defacing Gods Image in others, murdering their own soules, the Vices to which sin is commonly cotenacious, and whoredom, Covetousness, saith St. Paul, is the root of all evil, and a Whore saith Solomon, will hunt for the pretious life of a man, for those who prostitute their bodies to all comers, will not fear to prostitute their soules to all vices, & thus covetousness provokes whoredom, & whoredom causes Murther to be committed, one sin drawing another as it were with Cart-Ropes, when the final conclusion is the degradation both of body parte and reputation, and (if God be not the more mercifull) the eternal punishment of body and soul in hell-fire.

J. O. B. S.

thoughtful extravagancies have common-  
ly bad consequences, and more peris by too  
much indulgence, than too much severity,  
men abusing their liberty, so that where  
discipline is neglected, all vices flow in with  
a monstrous impetuosity.

What which we shall now relate is a sad  
example for the obiding of these truths,  
in the person of one Thomas Savage, a Flint-  
mills man, at the sign of the Ship at Ratcliff  
Cross, in the Parish of Stepney, near Lon-  
don, who by the instigation of a Whore,  
blinded with lust, was wrought upon to  
murder his fellow-servant, who in revenge  
to blinder him in the robbing of his Spar-  
er, the story whereof followeth.

This Thomas Savage was born of honest  
Parentage, his Father dying when he was  
young his Mother married again, to one  
who proved a loving step-father to the Son  
as a careful Husband to the Mother, and  
both of them by their care and cost endea-  
vouring to have their son well educated,  
which they expressed in bringing him up to  
Schooling whereby he might be fit and the  
more capable of a Trade; which after wards  
(comming to more mature years) they be-  
stowed upon him, placing him with one Mr.

Collins a Wintner at the Sign of the Ship at Ratcliff Cross, where he continued with much love and good will of his Master and fellow-servants for some space of time, though that was likewise attended with some somewhat extravaganties, for which his Master would much blame him.

Thus you see here was an endeavour to have had the seeds of virtue, and good living implanted in his heart, but where grace wanteth, all outward means will fail, Pan may plant and Apollos water, but it is God alone that must give the increase, young persons like this are fertile, and as war fit to receive any impression that is put upon them, but more easily inducible to that which is bad then good, by reason of the depravedness of our nature. He hapned to light into some whores-houses, the nurseries of wickedness, and seed plots of all filthiness, prophanities, and debauchery whatsoever. Sin is changable, and many persons ruine their estates out of the love they bear to filthy pleasures, there is forced to maintain lust, and so the whore hath it, she cares not by what means or from whom, by such means was this young man brought to ruine, for a whore seldom leaves a man till she hath brought

brought him either to the Hospital, or the Gallies.

It so hapned that one Sunday morning going with his Father to the Church he gave him the slip, and instead of the house of God, rambles to the sink of sin, the Bawdy-house, here he takes his pleasure, his whore is poyant to him, they drink and dally without controul, but this fall of pleasure causes an ebb of power, he complains to her of the emptiness of his pockets, this was to go to the Devil for counsel, and who a better spoken woman for him then a whore, she tells him he was a fool to have so little, and his Father so rich, why should locks and bolts hinder him, a picklock or a Hammer would remedy that, he replies that he was never left at home alone, the Devil was with him, and therefore this business was not feasible, she returns a sweet knock her on the Head, a sure way to find employment for the Hangman, as he afterwards too sadly felt to his cost.

Thus we plainly see that a whore is the high-way to the Devil, he that looks on her is entering on the Road, he that talks to her mends his pace, and he that enjoys her is at his Journeys end. O how many baits



and shuremanis haue they to see, using  
punning to let forth their Corples of dis-  
eases, which having been long in the City-  
ruggions bars, is ready to drop in place:  
though rottenness, the love that they pre-  
tend to bear to men, is worse then the dead-  
ly diseases of men, for where they kiss  
they kill, their breath is more venomous  
then a Dragons, their sight more deadly  
then a Basilisks, and their embraces more  
dangerous then those of a Serpents.

Watto return where we left, time pass-  
ing away, calls to the Prentice to hasten  
home, which he does, but findes his Master  
at dinner already, who questions him  
where he has been so long: the Devil is  
a ready promoter of lies, he returns him  
answer that he was at Church, his Master  
willing to believe the truth of his report, tells him  
that for his late staying in the forenoon,  
he should keep at home in the afternoon, this  
was as he would have it, the Maid and he  
are appointed to stay, the rest are gone to  
Church. Now he begins to put the Wilbores  
instructions in execution, Watto he will  
have though he venture his neck for't.

And now his chief endeavour is to fall out  
with the Wato, to effect this he goes to  
make





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fear, horror, and guilt of Conscience.

In the mean time (Dermion being ended) his Master returns home, and finding the door shut knocks and calls, but receives no answer, after much fruitless knocking, the door is forced open, where entering he findes his Maid murdered and himself Robbed, this strikes him into much grief and astonishment, but perceiving some Life in the Maid, they strive to recover her but in vain who onely living so long as to detect the Murderer, (God enabling her so much that such wickedness might be the better found out) are then yielded to Fate, and surrendered up her innocent soul to death.

Whereupon immediately Hue and Cryes are sent out after the Murderer, who coming to Greenwich, went to one Charltons a Watermans house to drink, laying the Pony down by him, where having not long been, but hearing some whisperings of a murder done at Stepney, and a Hue and Cry after the murderer, guilt of Conscience and fear so possesses him, that leaving the Pony behind him, he quits the Chamber where he was, and betakes himself to his heels. A Maier and his Maids with the guilt he carries about him, at Coom farm betwixt Greenwich

which and Woolwich he again betakes himself to an Ale-house, where sitting down and calling for a pot of Beer, he presently falls fast a sleep, where the Duke and Crybert took him, from whence he was guarded towards London, and had in examination before Major Manley one of His Majesties Justices of the Peace for the County of Middlesex, where he freely confessed the fact in manner as is related before unto you, detecting the Whore that enticed him into his destruction, who with her Souldiers of wickedness had intangled him in her Nets, whereupon he was Committed to Newgate, and a Warrant being also issued out for her, she was taken, examined before a Justice, and committed also unto Newgate.

Thus you see sin goes before, and shame follows after, the danger of keeping bad Company, especially Whores, those instruments of the Devil, the bane of youth and Lyme-twigs of wickedness, the center of all mischiefs, and the Gulphs that devour the lives, estates, and reputations of all that use them.

At the Sessions house in the Old Bayly October 24. 1668. he had his Tryall, where

where confessing his sad sentence of death  
 was passed upon him to be executed again  
 the place where he committed the sad. Han-  
 nah Blay also who had perswaded him to  
 this execrable act, by bidding him to knock  
 the Spale on the head, was also condemned  
 to be executed at Tyburn, but pleading that  
 she was with child she was so; the present  
 reprieved.

But Thomas Savage the principal in  
 the murder, according to the sentence as-  
 signed was Wednesday, October the 28  
 conveyed in a Cart from Newgate to the  
 place of Execution appointed for him, being  
 over against his Masters house, at the sign  
 of the Ship in Ratcliff-croft, where was  
 assembled a great concourse of people to  
 be spectators of his sad Catastrophe, he  
 seemed to be very penitent, desiring all peo-  
 ple, especially young persons to take warn-  
 ing by him, what company they added  
 themselves unto, which was either the bane  
 or making of youth, he gave them an Item  
 as near as they could to get into such ser-  
 vices where the word of God was constant-  
 ly read and practised, to beware of whores  
 and whore-houses, those seed plots of wicked-  
 ness, being such labyrinths of ungodli-  
 ness

f beaues, that nothing but the Clue of Gods  
 againe grace can bring them forth againe, when  
 a. Han they are once entered into them. With  
 him many other words to the like purpose after  
 know which he was turned off the ladder, where  
 name hanging some space of time he was cut  
 g the down and carried to the sign of the Rose by  
 present Ratcliff, where his body was laid upon a  
 at in Table, others Seamen being in the Room,  
 e a= but long he had not lain when they might  
 e as perceiue some signs of life in him, where=  
 the upon having a fire kindled, warming their  
 ring hands they bathed his body with spirits, and  
 sign an Apothecary being in the room desired to  
 was have him in a warm bed, when presently he  
 to began to move his arms and legs, with se=  
 be veral other symptoms of a living creature.  
 so In the mean space some Officers belonging  
 n= to Newgate, going to view the dead corps,  
 ed but finding it in such a living posture, one  
 e of them goes to the Sheriff, to acquaint him  
 n with it, whom he found at Dinner, who sud=  
 s denly hasted thither, the Officer by the way  
 making also accidentally with the Executioner,  
 he took him along with him, whereby  
 he way we may note, how every thing  
 consented together, for the speedier execu=  
 tion of Gods Justice upon this sin of wilful  
 Mur-

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Further, for seeing all things were  
thought to be done before, it was accidental  
for the Officer to meet with either of them  
but just so on a sudden,

When the Sheriffe came to the sign of  
the Rose aforesaid, he found Savage sitting  
in the bed, perfectly living, but wanting  
the use of speech, though it was judged not  
of force or reason; where in execution of his  
sentence of Condemnation he commanded  
him to be put in a Wheelbarrow and so laid in a  
Cart, it being the space of four hours from  
the time of his first hanging, to his second  
going to Execution, he did strike and stru-  
gle somewhat both at his taking away, and  
in the Cart, giving a kick to the Execution-  
ner and one of the Baylives a blow on the  
neth, but soon he was had to the Gallies  
aforesaid, and there hanged till he was  
quite dead.

And this was the end of Thomas Savage  
one who by the curse of Nature might  
have lived many years had he not by his  
wicked courses caused the hand of Justice  
to shorten his days. He was said to be very  
penitent in Prison, free in the confession  
of the horridness of his crime, earnestly im-  
ploring Gods mercy for the pardon of the  
same

same, and no doubt but God who is the  
God of mercy had compassion on him, his  
end may be a warning to others for com-  
mitting the like, lest trying the same sins  
they taste of the same punishments that  
of the old.

His Corps was afterward enteyed to  
Wilmington, the place where his faithful  
other dwelt, and that night there buried,  
notwithstanding the idle reports of some,  
who (say sooth) would have him to be alive  
still, such idle rumours when they are once  
got into the noses of the more slyer multi-  
tude, gain still by report, and like snails  
increase with being told from one to an-  
other.

Hannah Blay who had given him that  
the wicked Cornsell of knocking the Tald on  
the head, remains still a condemned pri-  
soner in Newgate. She pleading that she  
was with child, which hath gained her a re-  
prieve for a time.

And thus we may see the ill effects that  
the wicked produces, for as the Apostle saith, the  
reward of sin is death, which though it ma-  
ny times escapes the death of the body, yet  
never fails to kill the soul that more nobler  
part, in comparison of which, the body is but  
the same



a meer dringell, yet if we look attention to  
 punishments that it brings on the body, it  
 shall find enough there to work in us a de-  
 testation of it; both both it impair our health  
 consume our riches? destroy our credits  
 making us a scorn to our foes and a de-  
 testation to our friends, even wicked men  
 hating those in whom they see their ali-  
 bices predominant.

But so, this bloody sin of spurther it is  
 crime of a crimson dye, which nothing but  
 the tears of true repentance, can wash of the  
 guilt of it, from off the soul, yet man has  
 no greater enemy to himself then mankin-  
 ki ds, beasts and fowls, go lovingly toge-  
 ther in Troops and Herds not hurtle  
 each other, oh let us then learn at least  
 much civility from those which we con-  
 demn, least by our bloody actions at the day  
 of Judgement we be found to be greater  
 beasts our selves.

**F I N I S.**

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